

Application Serial No. 10/080,496
Amendment for RCE dated January 17, 2005

Remarks

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-2, 7-9, 15, 21-22, 25-27 and 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Brcka et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,652,711 and has rejected claims 1-3, 7-10, 14-15, 21-23, 25-28 and 32-33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wicker et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,033,585 in view of Drewery et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,197,165.

Applicant has amended claims to recite certain aspects of a baffle feature, namely that at least some of the slots in the baffle have one or more electrically conductive bridges that electrically interconnect opposite walls of the slots on only one side of the baffle. Different combinations of those aspects are set forth in independent claims 1, 7 and 21. The examiner's rejection of Brcka et al. was based on an interpretation of the claims that covered the lip 79 in the slots of a baffle that projected from only one wall of the baffle for the purpose of intercepting particles but not form a conductive path across the slot or would not otherwise electrically interconnect the opposite walls of the slot or not interrupt the slot.

Independent claims 1 and 7, as amended, recite "a plurality of the slots each having an electrically conductive bridge therein fixed to the body and electrically interconnecting opposite walls of the slot to thereby interrupt the slot, on substantially only one of said sides of the body". Independent claim 21, as amended recites: "a plurality of the slots each having an electrically conductive bridge therein fixed to the body and electrically interconnecting opposite walls of the slot to thereby interrupt the slot and form a current conducting path across the slot on substantially only one of said sides of the body. The Brcka et al. reference, does not disclose an electrically conductive bridge electrically interconnecting opposite walls of the slot as claimed by applicant.

The limitations contained in independent claims 1, 7 and 21, discussed above, are also absent from both Wicker et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,033,585 and Drewery et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,197,165. Note that the phrase "only one of said sides of the body" refers to the opposite sides or faces. For example as shown in Fig. 3A, one side of the body is provided, which will face a window of a plasma source in a processing apparatus, and Fig. 3B, which shows the opposite side of the body, which will face the

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plasma or chamber in such an apparatus. The bridges 34 are on "only one of said sides of the body", namely, "on the plasma side of the body" in the illustrated embodiment, and can be seen only from the plasma side, Fig. 3B, and not from the window side, Fig. 3A. Some, but not all, of the dependent claims, namely claims 3, 10, 23, 28, 38, 40 and 41, require that the bridges be on the side of the baffle that is configured to face the plasma and away from the window. This is particularly advantageous, as explained in the specification.

The significance of this limitation is set forth in the descriptions of Figs. 1A-1C and 2A-2B in the specification, and in the objectives stated in the application, any one of which provides motivation for the recited structure that is absent from either of the cited references. Accordingly, no *prima facie* case of obviousness is presented.

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For the reasons stated above, the claims as amended, are allowable. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

WOOD, HERRON & EVANS, L.L.P.

BY

Joseph R. Jordan, Reg. No. 25,686

2700 Carew Tower
Cincinnati, OH 45202
(513) 241-2324
(513) 241-6234 (Facsimile)